

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

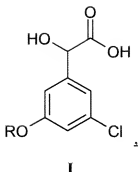
Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for resolving (*R*)- or (*S*)- optionally substituted mandelic acids from racemic mixtures of said optionally substituted mandelic acids by salt formation with a chiral base-(*D*)- or (*L*)-cyclic amide base, comprising the steps:

(a) forming a mixture in a solvent, or mixture of solvents, of a racemic, optionally substituted, mandelic acid; and a chiral base-(*D*)- or (*L*)-cyclic amide base, wherein the chiral base used is either (*D*)-cyclic amide for separation of (*R*)-mandelic acids, or (*L*)-cyclic amide for separation of (*S*)-mandelic acids, at an acid:base molar ratio of 1:0.25-0.75; and wherein the solvent, or mixture of solvents, may optionally contain water in the range of 5 to 15 % (vol.) of solvent; and

(b) separating the respective (*R*)/(*D*) or (*S*)/(*L*) mandelic acid-cyclic amide salt.

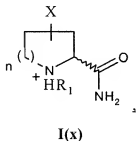
Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The process according A process, according to claim 1, wherein the racemic mixture of the optionally substituted mandelic acid is of formula I for resolving (*R*)- or (*S*)- substituted mandelic acids from racemic mixtures of said substituted mandelic acids by salt formation with a chiral base (*D*)- or (*L*)- cyclic amide, comprising the steps:~~
~~forming a mixture in a solvent, or mixture of solvents, of~~
~~a racemic mandelic acid derivative of formula I;~~



wherein

R is selected from CHF₂, H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, Alkyl, CH₂F, CHCl₂ and CClF₂; and

~~the either a chiral base~~ (D)-cyclic amide base or (L)-cyclic amide base is of formula **I(x)**



wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R₁ is H or C₁₋₆ alkyl; Alkyl and

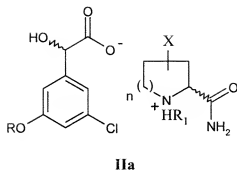
X is H, halo or C₁₋₆ alkyl; Alkyl,

and wherein

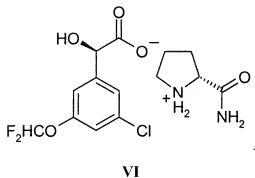
the chiral base used is either (D) for separation of (*R*)-mandelic acids, or (L) for separation of (*S*)-mandelic acids;

at an acid : base molar ratio of 1 : 0.25-0.75; and wherein the solvent, or mixture of solvents, may optionally contain water in the range of 5 to 15 % (vol.) of solvent; and

—(b)—separating the respective (*R*)/(D) or (*S*)/(L) mandelic acid-cyclic amide salt is of formula **IIa** formula IIa:



Claim 3 (currently amended): The process according to A process, according to claim 1 or 2,
 wherein the (R)/(D) mandelic acid/cyclic amide salt is of formula VI ~~formula VI~~;



Claim 4 (currently amended): The A-process, according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4,~~ wherein
 the solvent ~~used~~ is selected from ethyl acetate, acetonitrile, acetone, 2-butanone, 4-methyl-2-
 pentanone, *tert*-butyl methyl ether, 2-propanol, ~~and~~ ethanol and ~~or~~ a mixture of any of these
 solvents.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The process according to A process, according to claim 1 ~~any of~~
~~claims 1 to 5,~~ wherein the solvent ~~used~~ is ethyl acetate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The process according A process, according to claim 1~~ any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the mixture is heated (~~preferably to reflux~~) before cooling and filtering off of the respective (R)/(D) or (S)/(L) mandelic acid-cyclic amide salt.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The process according A process, according to claim 1~~ any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the acid:base molar ratio is 1:0.4-0.7.

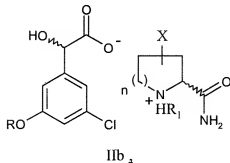
Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The process according A process, according to claim 1~~ any of claims 1 to 3, wherein to obtain further resolved mandelic acid cyclic amide salt,

the mandelic acid cyclic amide salt is separated,

the mother liquors are racemised and

the process ~~repeated at least once~~ repeated, at least once, ~~to obtain further resolved mandelic acid cyclic amide salt.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): A (R)/(D) or (S)/(L) mandelic acid/cyclic amide salt having the formula IIb ~~formula IIb~~;



wherein ~~Wherein~~

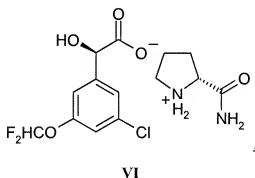
R is selected from CHF₂, H, C₁₋₆ ~~alkyl~~Alkyl, CH₂F, CHCl₂ and CClF₂; ~~and~~

~~wherein~~ **n** is 0, 1 or 2;

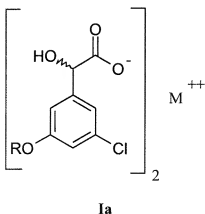
R_1 is H or C_{1-6} alkyl; Alkyl and

X is H, halo or C_{1-6} alkyl; Alkyl.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The A-(R)/(D) mandelic acid/cyclic amide salt according to claim 9, which is of formula VI



Claim 11 (currently amended): A metal salt of a mandelic acid derivative of formula Ia



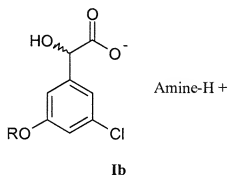
wherein

R is selected from CHF_2 , H, C_{1-6} alkyl; Alkyl, CH_2F , $CHCl_2$ and $CClF_2$; and

wherein the metal ion M is a metal ion selected from calcium, zinc and/or magnesium.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The A-metal salt, according to claim 11, wherein the mandelic acid derivative of formula Ia is the (R)-mandelic acid or the (S)-mandelic acid derivative, preferably the (R)-mandelic acid.~~

Claim 13 (currently amended): An amine salt of a mandelic acid derivative of ~~formula~~
formula Ib;



wherein

R is selected from CHF₂, H, C₁₋₆ ~~alkyl~~ alkyl, CH₂F, CHCl₂ and CClF₂; and
~~wherein the amine is selected from triethanolamine, 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine,~~
 piperazine, 1,4-dimethylpiperazine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine, 4-hydroxy-1,2,2,6,6-
 pentamethylpiperidine and ~~or~~ dicyclohexylamine.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~The A-amine salt according to salt, according to claim 10,~~
 wherein

the mandelic acid derivative of formula Ib is the (R)- or (S)-mandelic acid, and
~~wherein the amine is selected from triethanolamine, 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine,~~
 piperazine, 1,4-dimethylpiperazine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine and ~~or~~ 4-hydroxy-1,2,2,6,6-
 pentamethylpiperidine.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~The A-amine salt according to salt, according to claim 13 or~~
claim 14, wherein the mandelic acid derivative of formula **Ib** is the (*R*)- mandelic acid, and the
amine is triethanolamine.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~The A-salt according to any one of claims 9, 11 and 13 to 15~~
wherein the mandelic acid is (*R*)-3-chloro,5-difluoro-methoxy mandelic acid ((*2R*)-[3-chloro-5-
(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-(hydroxy)acetic acid).